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Anniversary of the Birth of a Saint.

THE SEEKERS OF NIRVANA MEET

Interesting Program of Exercises by the Shin Shu Sect of Gautama's Cult.

anniversary of the birth of Saint Shinran, founder of the Buddist sect "Shin Shu," was yesterday celebrated by the Japanese followers of the sect at the little Buddhist chapel on Fort lane.

ated with Buddhist banners, and the archway made into a bower of greens and flowers; the gateway of the school building and chapel presented a festive appearance, the many colored flags of seekers after Nirvana fluttering over it, and the blue and white banners with the coat of arms of Saint Shinran were festooned about the

The entrance to the lane was decor-

In the afternoon services were held, and in the evening the strings of Japanese lanterns which had been hung from the chapel across the lawn, were lighted, and the ocasion became one of

From a booth of bunting and greens. lemonade, tea and cakes were dispensed, and the little ones of the Oriental race were made happy with a surfeit of sweets. The gayest and richest kimonos from the wardrobes of the little brown women were worn, and the Japanese juveniles were quaintly and prettily clad for the occasion of rejoic-

The afternoon services began at 2:30 o'clock, the chapel being filled to overflowing with the followers of Buddha and their friends and invited guests. Queen Lilluokalani and a party of

other friends, having received the invi- Its Profusion, at Her Age, Has Always tation of Mr. Imamura, the high priest of bonze of the islands, was in attendance, and sat at the left of the altar. Dr. Marques, president of the Theoand Mrs. Marque were also invited guests.

The altar was decorated with the emblems of the sect and offerings of flowers and fruit had been placed in the known, however, that the remedy for brass vases and carved sandalwood re- dandruff, the germ destroying element, ceivers. Incense was kept burning. and lighted candles and elaborate brass lanterns softly illuminated the temple. The program of worship consisted of

chants and prayers in the Japanese language and an address in English by Mr. Imamura. Miss Barber, teacher of the Japanese night school, also made a short address in praise of the principles of the Buddhist religion, likening Buddhism to a great structure, whose foundation was of stone and rested on the earth, but whose summit was lost in the clouds of Nirvana.

The little girls of the Japanese Sunday school sang a sacred harmony to the accompaniment of the organ, and at the close of the services made offerings of silver to Buddha, placing the pieces of money upon the altar platform with quaint oriental obeisances. Their offerings were followed by those of the congregation, many of the contributors kneeling in prayer as they placed their silver pieces upon the al-

After worship tea and cake were served on the lanais and lawns: the Queen and her party, Dr. and Mrs. Marques and a number of American visitors were invited to partake of these refreshments with the priests in the reception room of the chapel.

The little ones made merry all the afternoon about the grounds, and in the evening the festivities for their elders began.

While tea drinking and refreshments under the Japanese lanterns on the lawns kept those outside merrily busy, within the chapel there were Japanese theatricals to amuse the Orientals and to excite the wonder and appreciation of the picturesque on the part of the

American visitors. to a close until near the midnight hour. The address of the high priest delivered in English at the afternoon ser-

vice was as follows: Today, wherever branches of the Buddhist mission of our sect, Shin-shu, exist, special meetings will be held to commemorate the seven hundrded and twenty-ninth anniversary of the founder, Saint Shinran, known to all Budd-hists of our sect. So the body of our followers here, meet today to praise his memory, following the precedent which has became a pleasant annual dutypious duty-of sending out thoughts of remembrance and gratitude for favors received from him.

Then, who was the founder of our sect? And what has he done in the history of Buddhism? His work was an extraordinary event in the records of Buddhism, that was never before seen, and that, perhaps, has never since been surpassed. He was born on May 21, 1173, in the highest circles of Kyoto, the old capital of Japan, having princely blood in his veins; having vast wealth and power. Almost everything the world had to offer was yielded to him. All he gladly gave up that he might go out into the world. He entered the priesthood at

nine years of age, under Zichin, the high priest of the Tendai sect. Later on he studied during twenty years, and perfectly understood the meaning of the Mahayana School of Buddhism, but he perceived that to attain Nirvana by self-power, or help through self, was almost impracticable to the imperfect human beings of this world, and then he quickly grasped the essential point in the doctrine of the essential point in the doctrine of the Mahayana School, and perceived that Nirvana was attainable to all by help through another, or by the boundless mercy of Amita Buddha. No one but himself ever discovered such a doctrine in Buddhism.

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The essential point in the doctrine of the Mahayana School, and perceived that Nirvana was attainable to all by help through another, or by the boundless mercy of Amita Buddha. No one but himself ever discovered such a doctrine in Buddhism.

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As soon as he began the mission the priests of other sects became jealous of the daily progress of the new doctrine and slandered him and his disciples to the government. In consequence of this, he was confined to the province of Yechigo, and the propaga-tion of the doctrine was stopped. After five years, when this restriction was removed by the government, he traveled through the northwestern provinces, spreading the doctrines of the sect. The more he was persecuted, the more his mission flourished. Returning to Kyoto he preached there for many years, and died in that city on January 16, 1262, at the age of ninety

At thirty-one years of age he mar-ried the daughter of Prince K. Kujo. This was one of the extraordinary events, not only in his life, but in the history of Buddhism, marriage having been forbidden to the priesthood here-

According to the general rule the priests of other sects cut their hair short, wear religious vestments, and show the general appearance of bonzes, but in our sect, since the doctrine is so easy of attainment, and austere observance of the other sects are not considered essential, they are allowed to marry and to eat flesh and fish, which privileges are strictly forbidden to the priests of the other sects. Thus, the priests of our sect are allowed to act freely in such matters. This is called "the manner of non-priests and non-laymen," which was established by the founder of our sect, and is peculiar to it alone.

Therefore, the system of our sect is far different from that of those aus-The seven hundred and twenty-ninth tere ascetics who desire for themselves the future world only, put the present world in oblivion, and look upon the rise and fall of the country with indifference. Ours is truly a national religion, that desires, at the same time, prosperity in this life and happiness in the next. It encourages the national spirit, adopts itself well to the manners and customs of the place at which it prevails, and maintains the peace of the country. This at once revealed the traits of the Japanese mind in by-gone ages, and helped to AGENTS FOR form the characters of the rising generation.

In short, the doctrines of our sect consist of the two systems; spiritual truth and moral truth. The principle of spiritual truth is to have faith in the power of Amita Buddha's prayer; to rest assured of future bliss through that faith; and that of moral truth is to lead an upright and moral life here, to the welfare and happiness of mankind, always remembering the mercy of Amita Buddha, and keeping a compassionate heart.

This is the reason why, in Japan, our sect is in a flourishing condition, and has the tendency to introduce itself into foreign countries, while the believers of the other sects are diminishing in number. Now in this celebration, the only

way we can manifest our gratitude tog this great teacher, outside of keeping his memory forever, is to express thankfulness for the reception of the doctrine from the founder, whose teachings are so benevolent, and as welcome as light in a dark night. (And I shall now thank the kind friends who so readily respond to our invitation and come to help us in our commem-

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